




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,
Austin Transportation Department 

DATE: December 1, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) Amendments
Response to Council Resolution No. 20200610-022

This memo serves as an update on the 2021 Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) Amendment process. The ASMP was first adopted in April 2019. It included a categorization of the existing streets with identified right-of-way widths and roadway characteristics. This first amendment cycle will become a regular yearly or biennial update as the ASMP evolves and new information needs to be included or updated. Much of this amendment process focusses on technical roadway updates, including specific Project Connect expected right-of-way needs.

As referenced in the previous [memo](#), phase one of the ASMP public comment period and proposed amendments began on October 1, 2021, with the release of a [policy amendment survey](#), related to transportation resilience and the expanded use of our streets for non-mobility users. On November 15, 2021, the second phase of public comment began with the release of a [presentation of changes to the ASMP Street Network Map](#), including those related to Project Connect. The following provides more detail on the amendment process.

Summary of Street Network Amendments

The ASMP's Street Network [Table](#) and [Map](#) show Austin's vision for improvements to the street network over the next 20 years. The Street Network is used to identify the amount of right of way that is needed to accommodate these future roadway conditions, such as the number of lanes and configuration of the street. The map was first established with the ASMP adoption in 2019. This current amendment cycle is intended for technical corrections and updates.

The map also reflects all the multimodal systems that make up our roadways, like bicycles and transit. As these systems change, the Street Network must be updated to reflect such changes.

- Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM) Update
The Street Network Table and Map include right-of-way requirements to accommodate future roadway conditions based on the Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM). The TCM defines the rules, street design requirements, and technical guidelines for building mobility infrastructure within the jurisdictional boundaries of Austin. The adopted table includes right-of-way requirements based on the draft Austin Street

Design Guide published in 2017, which was the precursor to the official update of the TCM. This process started in 2016 along with the development of the ASMP. The City worked with many departments, partner agencies, and design professionals to update and modernize Austin's TCM. The TCM is working its way through the official Rules Posting Process this year, concluding its public comment period on November 2, 2021. Final approval by the City Manager is anticipated on or before December 7, 2021. Applications of the new TCM will coincide with collection of street impact fees on June 20, 2022. These new street cross-sections and their right of way requirements are being used in the update of the ASMP Street Network.

- Project Connect

The Street Network Table and Map also includes future roadway conditions related to transit. The adopted Street Network Map, Public Transportation System Map, and Transit Priority Network were based on the Project Connect Long-Term Vision Plan. Since the adoption of the Project Connect System Plan in June 2020 and the approved referendum on the Initial Investment, more detailed plans have been developed and are being used to update these maps, per Resolution No. 20200610-022.

- Proposed Removed Roadways

This amendment process is also an opportunity to make other corrections and changes to the Street Network. Some roadways are being proposed to be removed from the Street Network. These roadways were identified for various reasons. They may have been determined as being infeasible, do not have community support, or have other specific considerations for why they are being removed from the ASMP.

- Grove Boulevard

Staff met with community stakeholders in the Montopolis neighborhood to discuss the Historic Montopolis Negro School and the extension of Grove Boulevard. The school property was taken under possession by the City in early 2019 via eminent domain and the Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of developing a plan to preserve the site. In 1987, the City previously acquired right of way for the extension of Grove Boulevard adjacent to the school using eminent domain. In response to the community's request to preserve the history of the site, and for restorative justice purposes, staff is proposing through this amendment process to remove the future roadway from the ASMP so that the City can include the full site in its historic preservation effort. The community will be able to provide comments for this proposed removed roadway, and others, through the ASMP Public Feedback Map.

Public Comment

The ASMP Amendment public comment period began with a policy survey released on October 1, 2021. This second phase of public comments on the map amendments, and the policy survey, will be held open until the end of 2021. Given the voluminous and technical nature of the material, this engagement process is limited to online participation and community meetings as requested.

The proposed changes to the ASMP will be presented to the Boards & Commissions and Council for adoption in early 2022. The ASMP team will provide a summary of all public comments received during the survey period and the public will be able to provide additional comments through the formal adoption process.

Next Steps

Below are the next steps in the ASMP amendment process by quarter:

*Delivering a safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation system
that enhances the environment and economic strength of the region.*

- Winter 2021/2022 – Boards & Commissions, presentations of all proposed amendments and summary of public comments
- Spring 2022 – Council adoption process readings begin

If there are any questions related to the amendment process, please contact Cole Kitten, Systems Development Division Manager, at 512-974-6442 or Cole.Kitten@austintexas.gov.

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager